

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/042,033	YOKOZAWA ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	Art Unit
	Jerry A Lorendo	1734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to the amendments and arguments filed January 28, 2004.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5 and 12-15.
3.  The drawings filed on 25 October 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All      b)  Some\*      c)  None      of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached  
1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

(1)

*Allowable Subject Matter*

Claims 1-5 and 12-15 have been found to be allowable over the prior art of record.

(2)

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Hot stamping foil cassettes and methods for their use, such as taught by U.S. patent No. 5,719,616 to Danjo et al. are known in the art. Danjo et al. disclose a thermal transfer cassette and method for its use comprising the steps of: Providing a thermal transfer cassette having a light diffractive structure (non-contacting) tag that records control information relating to cassette authenticity, type of thermal transfer film therein; and ink characteristics of the film; providing the cassette is a thermal transfer printing device which is capable of communicating (reading) the light diffractive structure tag by way of a tag reader; and transferring ink from the thermal transfer ribbon stored in the cassette by way of heat and pressure application by the thermal transfer head to a substrate based upon information read by the printer from the light diffractive structure tag. Neither Danjo et al., nor any of the prior art of record, however, specifically teach or suggests such a hot-stamping foil tape cassette and method for its use, as set forth in applicant claims 1, 4 and 12, wherein the cassette includes a shutter which is capable of peeling the hot-stamping foil tape disposed in the cassette from the value-added medium (the target substrate) after hot-stamping.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

(3)

*Response to Amendments*

The amendments and arguments filed January 28, 2004 are acknowledged. In response to the cancellation of claims 6-11, the amendments to applicant claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 and the addition of new claims 12-15 (incorporating the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 1),

Art Unit: 1734

claims 1-5 and 12-15 have been passed to issue as set forth and explained in sections (1) and (2), above.

(4)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerry A Lorendo whose telephone number is (571) 272-1233. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571) 272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

J.A. Lorendo, Primary Examiner  
AU 1734  
May 27, 2004